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STATED MEETING, March 2.

Vice President Morton, in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Picus Nuttali, (Audubon,) California.
Icterus tricolor, (Audubon,) California.
Podiceps Cornutus (young female,) and a box of Insects from China.—From Mr. W. Gambel.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Philosophy of Plants, by Decandolle and Spragel. Purchased by order of the Academy.
Discourse on the Objects and Importance of the National Institution for the promotion of Science, established at Washington, 1840. By Joel R. Poinsett, Secretary of War.—From Mr. Francis Markoe, Jr.

Written Communications.—Dr. Morton read a letter, dated Monrovia, Africa, December 20, 1840, from Dr. S. M. E. Goheen, acknowledging the reception of his notice of election as correspondent of the Academy.

Also a letter from Alexander Maclure, Esq., dated New Harmony, Indiana, February 18th, 1841, stating the reception by Dr. D. D. Owen and himself of their notices of election as corresponding members.

The Corresponding Secretary, read a letter from Mr. Francis Markoe, Jr., accompanying the Discourse of Mr. Poinsett, and the Constitution and By-laws of the National Institution, presented this evening; and expressing a wish for the co-operation of the Academy in the objects of the National Institution. Also a letter from Dr. George Engelman, dated St. Louis, Missouri, February 13th, 1841, acknowledging the reception of his notice of election as a correspondent of the Academy.

Verbal Communications.—Dr. George C. Leib made some remarks upon the "Construction of the Nictitating Membrane of the Eye," and exhibited specimens obtained from the eyes

of the Falco lagopus: he also communicated the fact, that the bird lived at least an hour after it had received a shot through the ventricles of the heart, allowing the escape of blood; which fact was certain from the kind of shot perforating the heart being of that size used at the first fire only; the bird being brought to the ground by a subsequent discharge.

Dr. Goddard also made some remarks upon the anatomy of this membrane, and the uses to which it is adapted.

STATED MEETING, March 9.

Mr. Lukens in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Thalassidroma Wilsonii; Stormy Petrel: from the Pacific Ocean.—From Mr. J. K. Townsend.

A series of beautifully mounted water-birds, with the case containing them, was presented by Dr. George C. Leib; viz.: Anas clypeata; Anas domestica; Anas acuta; Anas Americana, (males,) from New Jersey; Anas discors, (female) Pennsylvania; Anas crecca, (male and female) New Jersey; Fuligula Mollissima, (male and female) Massachusetts; Fuligula rubida, (young male) Pennsylvania; Fuligula valisneria, Fuligula albeola, Fuligula glacialis, Fuligula marila, Anas stepera, Fuligula clangula, Uria Brunnichii, Larus argentatus and Fuligula Farina, (males) all from New Jersey.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Six Nos. (91 to 96) of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, for 1839—July to December.—From the Society.

American Journal of Sciences and Arts, conducted by Benjamin Silliman, M. D. L.L.D., &c. &c., aided by Benjamin Silliman, Jr. A. M. Vol. XL. No. 1. January, 1841.—In exchange for the Journal of the Academy.

Report of the Commissioners for the exploration and survey of the North-eastern Boundary. Printed by order of the